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NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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CALIFORNIA: AIRY LOOK FOR SUMMER

OVERVIEW: Hallmarks -- light-as-a-feather ruffled flounced skirts -- a pale pastel palette -- natural fabrics ... Silk, and cotton gauze in all its guises -- gingham checks, menswear stripes, have fresh look -- khaki joins white as new Summer neutral ... Multi-piece, as well as multiple, dressing in pale gossamers challenges the imagination -- vests are a favorite add-a-part -- peekaboo sheer overdresses, often strapless, double as tunics for new-shape-pants, or as long skirts.

DRESSES: BUTTON-FRONT -- pale pink silk, ruffled puffed unmounted sleeves, band neck (Christine Albers) -- Pierrot collar white silk jacquard, ruffled cuffs (The It Co.) -- Chantilly-trimmed mixed windowpane-tweed stripe cotton, shirred, V-neck, looped shoe buttons (Ma Chemise) -- moss green Egyptian cotton grandfather shirt, tabbed roll-up sleeves (Fragments).. SUNDRESS -- ruffled-strap drawstring-waist peach crinkle cotton (Marion Kops) -- strapless elasticized Cantoni gauze black ground print/shirred bow-tied stole (Bird In The Hand) ... DOUBLE DRESSES -- twin flutter collar on dotted white georgette (Phyllis Sues) -- indigo smock, curved yoke/red cotton chiffon slip dress; strapless gray cotton chiffon/indigo underdress, both can double as long skirts (Nancy Stolkin) ... SEXY: Bois de rose gauze skirt, attached sash to X over bust, then tie as halter (Georgia Michaud).

MULTI-PARTS: TWOSOMES -- peach Egyptian cotton baseball shirt/elasticized waist 2-pocket dirndl (Fragments) -- short dolman, band collar jade silk crepe de chine dirndl (Kops) -- pleated cotton gauze mixed with chenille, double-tiered jade blouse/4-tiered skirt (Bird) ... THREESOMES -- multi-color striped cotton ruffled U-neck Mexican blouse, big puffed sleeves/paperbag skirt, rope belt/mauve

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SLIGHT OF HAND: KNOT SCARF INTO A JACKET!

It's how leading designers show Spring/Summer SHAWLS and OBLONGS: each side knotted well above the ends. The resulting weight prevents sliding off shoulder, gives a jacket effect, and has a BRAND NEW LOOK.

MULTI-FUNCTION IS THE KEY:

... MAMMOTH SQUARES folded into triangles

... MERELY-LARGE SQUARES become body wraps, front-draped strapless dresses, sarongs, pareus, stoles

... WHISPER-SHEER MATERIALS make it all possible

FRINGED SHAWLS and OTHER TRIANGLES: Two standouts -- "Gull Wings," literally three sides of a printed square, mitered at the 4th, forming a triangle with a V in back; tie ends, or knot as above, wear front-to-back, tie on hip, drapable but wrinkle-free, silky-hand polyester (Cacharel) -- double-layer brushed poly chiffon, hand-knotted multi-color ribbon fringe (Emily Wetherby) ... OTHERS TO NOTE: Charming open crochet cotton gauze, ivory, black; very, very sheer puckered cotton gauze, double-ruffled, 6-colors; lacy acrylic crochet, heavy scallop border (Maureen Benun/Vera Studio) ... Large, ruffled, allover garden print poly-cotton voile; poly fishnet, knotted tassel fringe (Glentex) ... Poly crepe de chine, Schiffli'd antique lace-look inset, border & scallop or deep self-ruffle (Alician) ... hand-painted floral pattern poly fishnet lace, self-fringed; huge hand crochet motif acrylic, deep tasseled self fringe (Elwin) ... Very open rayon "lace curtain," and pastel acrylic boucle that feels like sheer mohair, both self-fringed (Ellie & Me For PRT) ... Qiana jersey "butterfly," shirred down center front and back, to wear many ways; silky Qiana "crescent," double-header fringe;

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SLIGHT OF HAND: KNOT SCARF INTO A JACKET! (continued from page 1)

huge-mesh acrylic "spider web," fringed (California Things) ... Small old fashioned "fascinator" in incredibly cobwebby wool, dusty pastels (Echo) ... Rayon disco SLINKIES: Shiny-face pastels -- 72" solid-floral patterned lace, 8"-deep self braid fringe (Elwin) -- leaf, pinwheel patterns, narrow satin braid fringe (Sally Gee).

MAMMOTH SQUARES, nearly always shown folded into triangular shawls: 56" sheer cotton mousseline crowded birds & flowers print, can fold straight as pareu; enchanting 54" silk crepon French-children-at-play border print, target center surrounded by overlapping free-form dots, logo (Lagerfeld/Chloe) ... Acrylic voile paisley or floral border print, 2 corners, knotted, turn it into a deep-V-back shawl (California Things) ... 54" sheerest-possible wool: gauze, bouquet print in corners and center, braid-print border; handsome paisley/Renaissance border on pale center challis (Sally Gee) ... 54" Antique look gossamer poly/cotton box mesh, natural, olive drab, coral; very, very soft lacy open weave acrylic, ecru, dusties (Glentex) ... Beautiful 57" Belgian boucle fishnet, rayon/cotton macrame braiding and tassel fringe, and 54" self-fringed linen lace (Anne Klein) ... 54" raw-silk-look silk gauze, delicate, subtle stripe border; 48" wool crepe de chine, dark-bordered florals on paisley challis, dusty pink, ivory grounds (Echo) ... 54" Pima cotton chiffon consists of 4 square scarfs united by dark borders, repeated logo makes stripings (Pierre Cardin).

MERELY-LARGE SQUARES: Sheerest 36" cotton mousseline, large shaded pink orchids on black, other combos (Halston) ... soft tailored 27" geometric cotton, silk twill or crepe de chine, repeated faintly printed name forms either center or wide border, tri-color edgings, corner label (Balmain) ... 36" silk chiffon, soft multi-color interlocking squares, solid border (Louis Feraud) ... Luxe 36" weighted satin-stripe Tobago silk, gorgeous floral print framed in a border (Daniel la Foret) ... Sheer 27" silk crepe, prints concentrated on border so won't be lost when scarf is tied; new satin-stripe chiffon, documentaries border (Oscar de la Renta) ... Silky 40" wispy wool challis, various stripings; 30" silk crepe or twill piano key print, name all around border (Bill Blass) ... Dramatic 36" silk crepe de chine flower-burst and silk jacquard India prints (Anne Klein) ... Beautiful, very sheer, silky-hand India cotton chiffon, delicate prints, 27", 36" and 45" sizes, subtly named "Cacharel" ... Two-tone stripe 45" body wrap; 32" silk crepe de chine, two-tone overlapping pastel dots, striped border, or subtle bouquets in center and corners; 44" concentric center squares, mini-floral stripe border (Echo).

STOLES, OBLONGS: 45x160 Centimeter (about 18" x 64") silk chiffon, sufficient texture not to slide off hair, sherbet color florals, unusual small geometrics, on white grounds (Feraud) ... Oversize Chantilly; Klopman's new sheer woven nylon Dream Mist (California Things) ... 12½" x 55" satin striped silk chiffon, rolled hem, wear around neck, head, waist or as a tie (Oscar de la Renta) ... 14" x 60" sheer silk crepe, piano key print or spaced-out free-hand jungle dots; marvelous silk twill wild animal prints, each side knotted in front (Blass) ... 25" wide 7-foot stoles in gossamer sheers, knotted for jacket effect (Vera) ... Deep ruffle-end stoles, jacquard knit for dress, crinkle gauze for jeans, great when knotted (Alician) ... Wide 2-yard doubled ivory Orlon jersey, knotted wool yarn fringed (Wetherby) ... Signed 11" x 64" sheer silk crepe de chine, two-tone Zen prints (Cardin).

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CALIFORNIA (continued from page 1)

bodysuit (Albers) -- side-slit gray cotton chiffon elasticized blouson, bandeau top/red hip-yoked skirt/gray bloomers (Stolkin) ... WITH VESTS -- V-neck dotted white georgette blouse, embroidered sleeves/yoke-tied skirt, overcast seams (Sues) -- Two-pocket button-front off-white raw silk raglan blouse/circular skirt/vest has yoke and two-pockets (Dina's Creations) -- V-neck chiffon shirttail blouse/silk crepe de chine pleated wrap skirt/banded neck striped silk jacket matches vest (Silks) -- striped silk blouse, contrast collar, man's tie/khaki cotton button-front skirt, shirred pockets/white vest (Ma Chemise).

PANTS AND TOPS: WITH DOUBLE SHIRTS -- mandarin collar tab-buttoned rolled sleeve aqua shirt/Lurex striped gossamer silk chiffon overshirt/peach camisole/narrow beige silk crepe de chine trousers (Fragments) -- V-neck peach silk georgette shirt/big shoulder-tucked striped cotton overshirt/treebark

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LOVELY SLEEP, LOUNGE AND ANYWHERE WEAR

The Spring Intimate Apparel market again takes a cue from RTW, often competing with it. Lavishly sophisticated, seductive sleepwear has revitalized this category, backed by authority of designer names.

WHAT'S NEW:

... BLOUSONS: Blouson pajamas

... TAP PANTS "Are Not Just for Dancing"

... KIMONOS are a WRAP-up

... LACE, especially Venise, edgings, inserts, bodices, allover stretch; eyelet embroidery, smocking; fine pleats, allover or cascading down one side; Trios of Tiers.

... FLASH: HAREM JUMPSUITS prophetic of Paris Couture

SLEEPWEAR, the LONG ... Coral mushroom pleated backless Empire, streamers to tie into halter, Grecian crisscross (Halston IV) ... Bare top-ruffled double-layered nylon, chiffon, spaghetti straps, satin ribbon hip tie, doubles as disco dress (Stan Herman/Kentelle) ... LACE: Venise, tucks, embroidery and satin beading on square yoke of white crepe "christening gown," ecru Val edgings on crepe sleep shirt, lapel logo (Christian Dior); see-through Cluny Egyptian yoke on lavender nylon tricot float (Formfit Rogers) -- slate blue allover stretch, slit bodice, cap sleeves, spaghetti ties (John Kloss/Cira) ... TRIPLE-TIERS: Eyelet embroidery separates tiers of ribbon-strapped elasticized-top candlelight gauze (Chevette) -- embroidered bodice and top tier of spaghetti-strapped poly-cotton voile (Gilligan & O'Malley) ...PEIGNOIR SETS: Ruffled straps and armholes, white-on-white jacquard crepe/ruffled wrap (Givenchy/Boutique Loungewear) -- Venise-lavished white dotted Swiss/full-sleeved robe (Matej/Odette Barsa) -- in satin: Yellow, matching lace/kimono (Eve Stillman) -- yellow jacquard poly-satin, ruffled pleating/kimono (Zandra Rhodes/Stillman) -- Alencon-lavished candlelight "bridal" set (Chloe/Stillman) ... BED-READING JACKET SETS: White cotton knit, crochet edgings and peplum, pink ribbon tunneling/jacket (Paula Carbone/Papillon) -- white satin toga, lace trimmed, side slit, drawstring waist/swansdown jacket (Fernando Sanchez) ... and the SHORT of it: blousons -- pink-white feather print, poet's collar, ruffle trim, drawstring-ruffled shoulders (Yves St. Laurent/Frine International) -- side-slit violet print, back yoke (Bill Blass/Royal Robes) ... Charming tucked white batiste mini-pinafore, lace-and-ribbon straps, ties (Formfit) ... Double-spaghetti strapped yellow "baby doll," pointed tulle signature lace (Rhodes) ... Satin-piped seafoam tricot poet's shirt, lace hem and jabot trim (Stillman) ... Triple-tiered white lace/ruffled jacket (Papillon) ... WITH TAP PANTS: Slip-top "baby doll," poly crepe "Star Wars" print, contrast stitching (Chloe) -- beige pindot poly-crepe de chine sleep chemise/kimono - (Halston) -- lace trimmed beige gauze camisole, contrast ribbon (Chevette) -- white burn-out print chemise, shaped lace applique, hem (Dior) ... WITH BIKINI PANTS: Lace trimmed Antron princess shortie, crystal pleated flounce (Vanity Fair) -- nylon chiffon angel sleeve shirt, neck ruffle (Herman) -- brown terry tunic, rounded bottom, contrast binding (Gilligan) ... IN KNIT TERRY: Short white JUMPSUIT, bodice tied under bust, 2-piece bare midriff coffee lace playsuit, BOXER SHORTS (Kloss) ... White poly-cotton knit romper, shocking pink ruffled collar trim (Clovis/Boutique Loungewear).

PAJAMAS, LONG: WITH BLOUSON TOPS -- Beige lace/Venise-trimmed camisole/lace-waisted tasseled pants (Barsa) -- green poly-satin cowl neck, matching lace hem, shoulder applique (Dior) -- drawstringed white cotton/lace insets on pants sides (Sanchez) -- hip-bloused melon satin, elasticized ruffled neck and 3/4 sleeve (Herman) -- navy Antron tricot, short dolman sleeves, ecru lace trim (Vanity Fair) ... Crochet-edge peach nylon, crystal pleating softly ruffled down one side (Gilligan) ... Bright blue India cotton kabuki patchwork applique (Bill Tice/Swirl) ... SHORT: WITH TAP PANTS -- lace-edged, pleated/with cotton-poly batiste camisole (Papillon) -- blue chiffon/short ruffle neck jacket ends at elasticized waist (Herman) ... Menswear stripe boxer shorts/green-piped curved jacket (Barsa) ... Checked poly-cotton broadcloth Bermudas/striped popover top (Geoffrey Beene/Swirl).

NIGHT WRAPS: BED JACKETS -- floral print satin, lace edged neck, front (Dior) -- allover pleated starburst print, pleated ruffle (Rhodes) -- white cotton lawn cape-

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LOVELY SLEEP, LOUNGE AND ANYWHERE WEAR (continued from page 3)

let, lace inserts, white hand embroidery (Chloe) ... ROBE WRAP-UPS: Eyelet pique, scalloped Venise -- short sleeved poly-satin rose print kimono, button tab on shoulder (Dior) -- menswear shirting stripe, long, puffed, cuffed sleeves (Blass) -- yellow pique, trapunto stitched pockets, collar (Beene) -- jade terry monk's robe, white hood and banding (Vanity Fair) -- surplice-wrap: red floral print, rope belt, ruffled shoulder (Oscar de la Renta/Mel Mortman) -- sleeveless beige T-shirt, lattice crochet pockets (Adri/Royal Robes) ... COATS: Zip-front, brown-white flocked floral (Lori Till) -- tulip sleeve button-front, ruffled collar allover lace, ribbon beaded Venise trim (Chevette) ... LONG ROBES: WRAP -- wine-piped wine-white signature "G" print (Givenchy) -- yellow starburst print kimono, ceremonial sleeves, signature lace trim (Zandra Rhodes) ... Mint voile PEIGNOIR, smocked shirring, lace tiers on long puffed sleeves and hem (Chloe) ... BUTTON-FRONTS -- bouquet print, shirred from Venise-edged yoke; white pique, Venise and pink or blue ribbon trimmed yoke and long sleeves (Stillman).

AT-HOME FASHIONS, browns & primary brights are big: LOUNGING PAJAMAS -- pink poly jacquard trapeze top, straps, plus deep yoke smock jacket (St. Laurent) -- plunging V-neck yellow starburst poly chiffon, ruffles, butterfly sleeves, elasticized waist/balloon pants (Rhodes) ... ONE-SHOULDER TOGAS -- shoulder-tied mint poly interlock, envelope closing (Halston IV) -- gold/turquoise striped/gold Lurex pants (Sanchez) ... Ahead-of-Paris HAREM JUMP-SUITS: Softly shirred black smocked bodice poly-cotton, self-tie straps (Gilligan) -- straight-leg white seer-sucker, elastic waist (Halston IV) ... PANTSUITS: Mauve terry, short jacket, lattice crochet trim (Adri) -- red-piped gray-white striped baseball jersey (Clovis) ... Eyelet-embroidered beige linen TUNIC/side slit brown batik skirt (Adri) ... SLEEVELESS DRESSES: Fagotted triple-tier white terry (Blass) -- long button-front crowded print voile, ruffled U-neck (Oscar de la Renta) ... Aqua, lavender, pink blazer-striped SARONG, front tied bra top (Clovis Ruffin) ... Appliqued mattress ticking CAFTAN (Lori Till) ... Pink-silver Lurex striped side-split DJELLABA, stand-up Pierrot collar (Sanchez) ... Long snap-fastened stretch-terry CARDIGAN, carpet tape trim, patch pockets, raglan sleeves (Kloss).

THE ANYWHERE DRESS: SUNDRESSES, many strap-less -- peplum'd, flounced crowded floral voile, elastic waist; tiered red-white print, elastic band top (de la Renta) -- periwinkle side-buttoned, tucked bodice, contrast binding, bows (Albert Nipon/Swirl) -- sashed bright green "cardigan," smocked over bust, pie crust pleat trim (Bill Tice) ... HUGE PUFFED SLEEVES: On/off shoulder metallic striped Indian gauze peasant (Blass) -- ivory-taupe-orchid tiered peasant (Adri) ... Pink-white striped drawstring button-front, checked sleeves (Beene) ... Red-white dot poly-cotton square neck FLOAT, zip front, smocking, butterfly sleeves (Tice) ... Black French lace DISCO DRESS side slit to waist, short drawstring sleeves (St. Laurent).

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CALIFORNIA: (continued from page 2)

cotton knickers/square-neck vest (Albers) -- WITH TUNICS -- khaki mandarin collar, roll sleeve, shirred raw silk tunic/silk watch pocket jeans, two back pockets (Dina's) -- side-slit white jacquard striped tunic/gathered shoulder charmeuse vest/bois de rose hip-yoked pants (It Co.) -- hand-dyed V-neck pleated jade gauze tunic/amethyst skirt/narrow jade pants (Michaud) -- side-slit sleeveless pleated plum cotton tunic/short vest/wrapped pants (Bird-In-Hand).

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